

Grindelwald Canton Bern
Switzerland 27 August

My dear Gray Your welcome letter of the
26th July reached me here only two days
ago having travelled to & fro - I suppose
there is some compensation in human affairs
but in our case we seem to be paying
for all our good fortune last year by
various mishaps which have fallen
mainly on my wife - She came to
Switzerland a good deal the worse for
confinement to the house & want
of exercise but after a fortnight in
the region surrounding the Lake &
since she was beginning to walk
pretty well - we went to Rosshaus
meeting there a number of Gasquet-
friends when going up to the old
site of the now shrunken ^{glacier} she slipped
on some very flat rocks & fell, severely
bruising the ankle &c -
After a few days she was carried
here over the Scheidegg but does
not improve much & is con-

to alternate between bed & sofa
not even owing to the restaurant which
is the harder as we have very pleasant
Italian friends in the house. Among
other people who have turned up was
my old friend Lord Aberdare who has
a lively recollection of his meeting with
you & Mrs Gray at our house & made
many inquiries — By the way I am asked
by our Roman friends here to consult
you as follows. He is the Duke of Sermoneta
better known as Prince Teano (his title
during his father's life) an active, intelligent
well informed man who carries out many
experiments & improvements on his large
property — (about 60000 acres) which includes
a large part of the Pontine Marshes — a sandy
tract near the sea — Some stony hills & some
deep soil good for tillage — He wants to
plant hickory & introduce it into Southern
Italy — The questions submitted to you are
1 which species is economically most useful
& most likely to succeed in Southern Italy
2 What sort of soil should be chosen
3 (the most difficult) How is he to procure
the plants? may he rely on the native ~~opportunity~~
to procure your plants & if so how?

I am rather surprised to hear that
the parcels which I sent to Genoa
many months ago should not yet
have reached you — As the matter
stands I think I may best wait
until I return about the end of
October — I am very glad that
you are about ~~the~~ to attack the
Polypetalae — It will be a great day

for botany when the work is
complete but I hope that we may
see you either on this or on the
other side of the Atlantic before
that comes to be

My wife sends her love to you &
Mrs Gray & I remain always

most sincere of yours

John Hall

I'm here so bus that I can't
see what I write